GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:680
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2016
Closing of Energy Security Division
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Energy Security Division of the Ministry of External Affairs has been shut down,
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the energy sector is recognized as an important and growing concern for the nation and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(d) the details of the mechanism by which the Ministry of External Affairs proposes to handle the work previously overseen by the ES division?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) No, the Energy Security (ES) Division of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has not been shut down. The ES Division has only been merged with Investment & Technology Promotion (ITP) Division of MEA and the Division is renamed as ITP & ES Division. The merger has been undertaken based on functional requirements.

(c) & (d) Yes, the energy sector is recognized as an important and growing concern for the nation. The re-designated ITP & ES Division now serves as the nodal point in MEA for energy security-related matters. The Division maintains close coordination with relevant line Ministries related to energy including NITI Aayog, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Coal, Power & New and Renewable Energy etc., and supports their international engagement through appropriate diplomatic interventions. The Division supports efforts of Indian entities in acquiring energy assets overseas and in building strategic partnerships with foreign companies. The Division deals with internal energy related organizations and forums and acts as an interface with leading energy security think-tanks and experts on energy-related issues.